




Your cat really is driving you crazy.



standuponit
 **standuponit**

https://standuponit.livejournal.com/2010-05-12_20:32:00

MOOD: 🤪 crazy

MUSIC: Calexico - Cruel

Additional information linking [Toxoplasma gondii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxoplasma_gondii) (https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxoplasma_gondii) with mental status changes in humans, including [schizophrenia](http://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//scienceblogs.com/aetiology/2010/04/schizophrenia_is_it_preventabl.php) (https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//scienceblogs.com/aetiology/2010/04/schizophrenia_is_it_preventabl.php).

MIND CONTROL CAT PARASITES.

I'm just saying.

(There's also some talk about [cytomegalovirus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cytomegalovirus) (<https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cytomegalovirus>). And--even more fun!--a retrovirus every *single human being already has inside their DNA*. I know you're reassured.)

TAGS: [protozoa mind control](#)



[This looks like a good idea.](#)

...

[This.](#)

...

[Little guy's not bad.](#)

Gotta teach RHex to smear.

31 comments




 [hawkwing_ib](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:35:16 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Whom the cats would destroy, they first make mad.



 [standuponit](#)


[May 13 2010, 00:37:15 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Sixty million years ago, a lemur caught a cold. And the cold decided to stay.

And now it lives in our DNA and makes 1% of us clinically batshit insane*.

*technical term



 [hawkwing-lb](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:38:29 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Give it up for evolution, people!

(And persistence.)



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:41:55 UTC](#) Edited: May 13 2010, 00:42:27 UTC [COLLAPSE](#)

I like the part where, once it infected that lemur, it migrated to the testes (or ovaries) and inserted itself into the genome.

And then having done so, every so often it reactivates.

It's the same one that causes M.S. *Dun dun dun.*

THE VIRUS IS CALLING FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE.




 [hawkwing-lb](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:45:50 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Knock, knock, said one virus of uncounted billions.

We are in your cells, changing your DNA. All your children are belong to us.



 [barsukthom](#)

[May 13 2010, 02:20:33 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

WHO WAS DNA?

 Deleted comment



 [barsukthom](#)

[May 13 2010, 14:29:35 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

CATNIP FOR THE CAT GOD!!!!!!



 [txanne](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:50:53 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

MS is one of my least-favorite nightmares, right up there with Alzheimer's.

I'm now going to watch a nice cheerful episode of Criminal Minds. That'll make me perk right up!



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 00:56:00 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Nothing like those heady reminders of all those lurking genetic boobytraps, huh?

Hey, that show has a schizophrenic character, doesn't it? You're on topic!




 [phiremangston](#)

[May 13 2010, 03:52:52 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Dropping in to mention that there's still no definitive cause for MS. The newest study concluding that it's almost certain MS isn't hereditary was a relief to me, but they're still focusing a lot of the research on environmental triggers.



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 04:00:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Are you familiar with this research?

<http://www.retrovirology.com/content/6/S2/P70>



 [phiremangston](#)

[May 13 2010, 04:15:54 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

However, this has not been shown for the entire MS population. Which is why it is not the definitive cause for MS. At least, not yet. There are still those with myelin degeneration that may have been misdiagnosed with MS, unless another cause is specified. Until it's widely accepted in the medical community as the primary cause, I'm wary.

There are still more studies to be done, and since I had never heard of this research before today, consider me only cautiously optimistic.



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 09:56:27 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Caution is generally rewarded. And very few things in life have really definitive answers.



 [trollcatz](#)


[May 13 2010, 01:23:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

You just read that *Discover* article I left on your desk, didn't you?

The one about schizophrenia being linked to an endogenous retrovirus that's activated by exposure to other diseases?

Yeah. Wanna come over and drink beers?



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 01:23:35 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

As soon as I find my shoes.

0.o



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 01:46:23 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm onna train. Okay. And I quote.

"(This stress response may be written into these parasites' basic evolutionary strategy, since stressed hosts may be more likely to spread on contract infections.)"

So you're going back to med school for neurology, right?



 [lynnal](#)

[May 13 2010, 21:28:01 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Stress is also a common trigger for viral replication in previously dormant viruses. This is good for the virus when the host is an animal - as long as the animal is happy, just shed every so often. When the animal may die, make as much virus as possible.

In plants this strategy can also be adaptive for the host. Individual plants cannot escape the cause of stress, which is usually environmental. Activating viruses causes genetic shuffling in the host DNA, which can produce new variation. Plants typically make lots of seeds, so with luck one of those virus-induced mutant offspring will have a change that will allow it to survive stress better. The odds of a good mutation are terrible, less than one in a million. But the odds of an individual plant see surviving are not much better than that in the most favorable case (in the wild, human intervention changes the odds). Think of how many seeds a single elm sheds each spring and what the odds are of any of those seedlings surviving. Plants can easily afford to play genetic roulette.



 [thefmaskmaker](#)

[May 13 2010, 01:41:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I'm so reassured Imma go and get a big glass of wine. Or maybe two.



 [standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 01:44:48 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Your own DNA has been rewritten to drive you mad.

AWESOME.



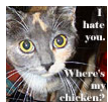
[sprrwhwk](#)

[May 13 2010, 02:26:59 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

It's kind of scary how much of the human genome is made up of viral DNA. (A lot. Maybe half.)

It's good to know the cat's driving me crazy on a microbiological level as well as on a behavioral level. (Stop that! Put that down! Leave the couches alone! AND GET OUT OF MY HEAD!)



[standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 02:57:40 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Quit making me think I like you!



[sprrwhwk](#)

[May 13 2010, 03:23:45 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I for one welcome our new furry, furniture-shredding overlords.

Deleted comment



[calanthe_b](#)

[May 13 2010, 03:17:07 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Hee! Comment twins!

Deleted comment



[standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 03:27:30 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Mind-control parasites is old news. Ants and fungus.

Parasites that trigger the virus that wrote itself into your own genetic code generations ago to drive you mad?

Now that's hot.

Deleted comment



[standuponit](#)

[May 13 2010, 12:19:27 UTC](#)


[COLLAPSE](#)

Dramatic prairie dog! With advertising. And meta. IT'S A MONETIZED PRAIRIE DOG.

Oh, you know cats are space aliens.

 Deleted comment



 barsukthom

May 13 2010, 14:26:56 UTC COLLAPSE

It's not about ...our Feline Overlords... But I have a theory that at a certain level of maturity squirrels* join a "Squirrel Hive Mind", dramatically increasing their intelligence and skill-set.

*Your basic American grey Squirrels. Red Squirrels** are just dang cute, Fox Squirrels are deadly Ronin, and Kaibab Squirrels... To the West I Go Not.

**And Flying Squirrels.



 calanthe_b

May 13 2010, 04:49:16 UTC COLLAPSE

Not to mention an extremely memorable book!



 calanthe_b

May 13 2010, 03:16:49 UTC COLLAPSE

...didn't Scott Westerfeld write a book about that? Or something like it anyway?



 inaurolillium

May 13 2010, 05:14:01 UTC COLLAPSE

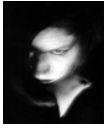
...I'd be even more creeped out about the CMV if I hadn't already been able to track the course of the bipolar before I got sick from the CMV. Still, gnaaah...



 standuponit

May 13 2010, 12:20:35 UTC COLLAPSE

la la la la la la la la



 [kayjayoh](#)

May 13 2010, 14:06:29 UTC

COLLAPSE

Oh god. I woke up this morning from a seriously messed up dream involving icky blood worm parasites, and the possibility that I had just contracted some. I was seriously hideous. (I totally blame *Peeps* for the knowledge about parasites that I had in the dream.)

(the pre-icky-horrible-worms part of the dream involved human sacrifice and the the post-icky-horrible-worms part of the dream involved the cast/characters of *Criminal Minds*.)

So, very comforting to log onto LJ and read talk of parasites. Very.

This looks like a
good idea.

...

This.

...

Little guy's not
bad.

Gotta teach RHex
to smear.